

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 12-17 are pending in the above application.

The Office Action dated November 15, 2006, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Takagi and Murakami. It is believed that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the references of record, and reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Takagi and Murakami. Nishimura discloses a leadframe having first and second parallel leads joined end to end. However, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Nishimura does not show a leadframe with a plurality of parallel first leads having a different pitch than a plurality of parallel second leads. Takagi is cited to cure this deficiency. It is respectfully submitted that a proper motivation for combining Nishimura and Takagi has not been provided and that therefore a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented. In addition, even if the references could be combined, the result would not suggest the lead frame defined by claim 1. Each of these issues is addressed below.

The first asserted reason for reason for modifying Nishimura's first and second leads to have different pitches as stated in the Office Action is "in order to have the first and second leads to have a different pitch." It is respectfully submitted that this is a tautological argument and in no manners shows why one skilled in the art would make the proposed modification. It appears to be a statement that such a modification is possible; however, this does not constitute a motivation for modifying references. MPEP 2143.01. The other asserted reason for modifying Nishimura is to provide "for a different mounting application." No different mounting application for Nishimura is identified. This statement, therefore, appears to be a statement that one would modify Nishimura in order to make it "different." It is respectfully submitted that making something different is not a sufficient motivation for modifying a reference. If this rejection is maintained, it is respectfully requested that the examiner identify the different mounting application that Nishimura would be used for, explain why that different mounting

application is suggested by the references of record, and identify a proper motivation for modifying Nishimura so that this rejection can be better understood.

Even if a proper motivation were provided for modifying Nishimura based on Takagi, the combination would in no manner suggest the claimed invention. Nishimura discloses a leadframe. Takagi discloses a plurality of separate leads projecting from a resin block 15. Takagi does not disclose a leadframe and thus it is not clear how Takagi can in any manner suggest a modification to Nishimura's leadframe. Therefore, if this rejection is maintained, it is respectfully requested that the examiner explain how separate leads projecting from a resin block suggest any modification to the design of a leadframe, such as Nishimura's leadframe.

The Office Action further acknowledges that, even if Nishimura and Takagi could somehow be combined, the resulting combination would not show the pitch of first leads corresponding to a pitch of terminals of a surface mount-type electronic device and the pitch of the second leads corresponding to a pitch of terminals of a through hole mount-type electronic device. However, it is asserted in the Office Action that Murakami would make this limitation obvious. It is respectfully submitted that a proper motivation for modifying Nishimura and Takagi in view of Murakami has not been provided and that therefore a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented. Moreover, even if a proper motivation were identified, the result would not be the invention recited in claim 1.

The asserted motivation for modifying Nishimura and Takagi is "for a different application for LED mounting." Like one of the statements of motivation asserted above, this statement essentially reduces to "it would have been obvious to modify the device to make it different." It is again respectfully submitted that making something different is not a sufficient motivation for modifying a reference. To support a prima facie rejection based on obviousness, the record must show why one skilled in the art would have found it desirable to make the proposed change. This has not been done in the present case.

Even if the references could be combined, the result would not be the invention recited in claim 1. Murakami does mention at column 1 that both through hole mounted devices and surface mount devices are known, and does illustrate both types of prior art devices in Figures 1 and 2, the embodiment of Figure 21A is in no manner related to through hole mount devices.

Nowhere in Murakami is it stated that the first leads in Murakami are for surface mount type and the second leads are for through hole mount. The entire disclosure appears to be directed to a modified surface mount device. If this rejection is maintained, it is respectfully requested that the examiner explain, with reference to column and line number, where in Murakami this limitation is suggested. It is respectfully submitted that neither Figure 21A nor column 1, lines 21-30 support the arguments in the Office Action.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Takagami and further in view of Murakami. For the reasons provided above in connection with claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that a proper motivation for modifying Nishimura based on Takagami and Murakami has not been provided, that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented, and that claim 12 is allowable over the applied references for at least this reason.

In addition, claim 12 recites a leadframe for a semiconductor device that includes a plurality of parallel first leads each having a first length, a first width and a first thickness and that the plurality of first leads have a first pitch corresponding to a pitch of terminals of a surface mount-type electronic device. Claim 12 further recites a plurality of parallel second leads each having a second length, a second width, a second thickness and a second pitch corresponding to a pitch of terminals of a through hole mount-type electronic device. The first leads are joined end to end with the second leads and the first pitch is different from the second pitch and the first thickness is less than the second thickness. This second independent claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, but the different limitations of claim 12 are not addressed. If this rejection is not withdrawn, it is respectfully submitted that a further Office Action should issue that provides a basis for rejecting claim 12 so that the grounds for this rejection (and the elements that are believed to correspond to each recited limitation in claim 12) can be determined and the rejection addressed.

Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishimura in view of Takagami and further in view of Murakami. For the reasons provided above in connection with claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that a proper motivation for modifying Nishimura based on Takagami and Murakami has not been provided, that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented, and that claim 15 is allowable over the applied references for at least this reason.

Claim 15 further requires a leadframe for a semiconductor device that includes a plurality of parallel first leads arranged in a plane, each of the first leads having a first thickness in a direction normal to the plane and the plurality of first leads having a first pitch corresponding to a pitch of terminals of a surface mount-type electronic device and a plurality of parallel second leads arranged in the plane, each of the second leads having a second thickness in the direction normal to the plane less than said first thickness and the plurality of second leads having a second pitch corresponding to a pitch of terminals of a through hole mount-type electronic device and different than said first pitch and that the first leads are joined end to end with the second leads. The limitations of claim 15 are not identical to those of claim 1 but the Office Action does not explain how the art of record is believed to satisfy the limitations of this claim. If this rejection is not withdrawn, it is respectfully submitted that a further Office Action should issue that provides a basis for rejecting claim 15 so that the grounds for this rejection (and the elements that are believed to correspond to each recited limitation) can be determined and the rejection addressed.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15 and are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 15.

CONCLUSION

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated November 15, 2006, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1, 2, 5, 6 and 12-17 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the examiner is respectfully requested to contact Scott Wakeman (Reg. No. 37,750)

Application No. 10/690,615
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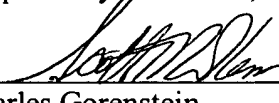
Docket No.: 0951-0127P

at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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